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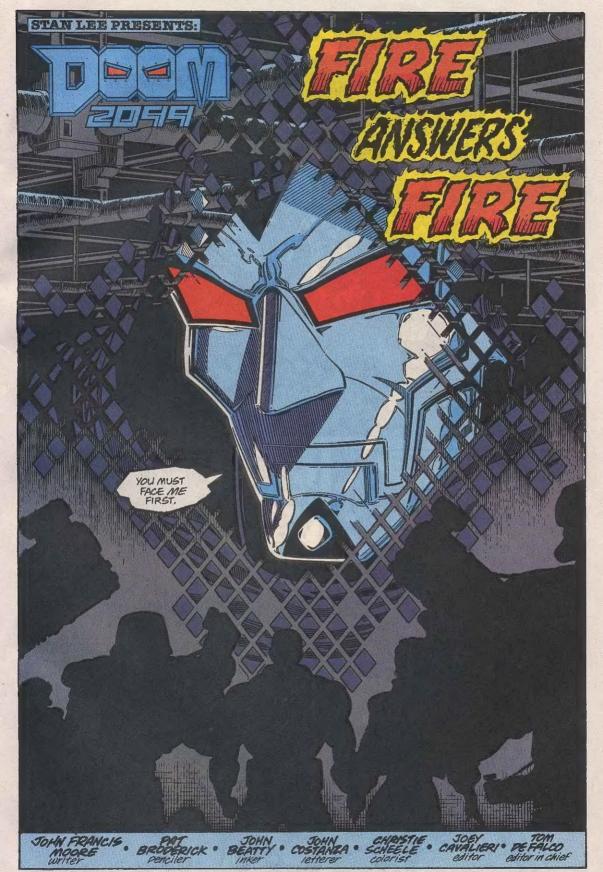














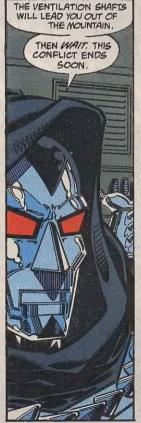




















































































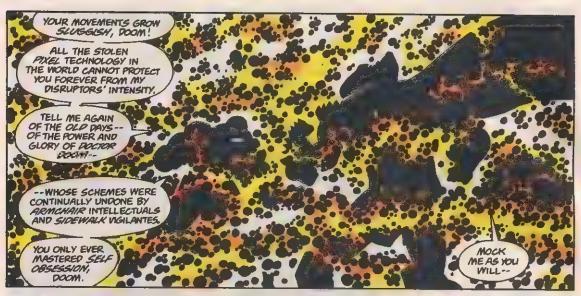




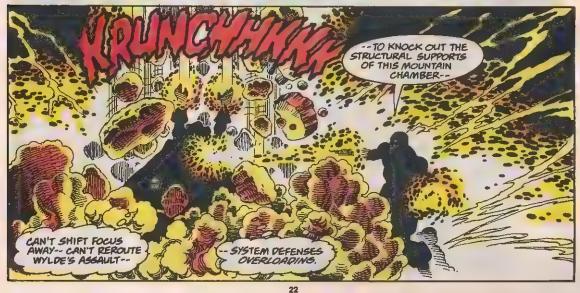












MARK'S REMARKS

This is only the third time I've written for this space and already I'm resorting to name-calling. You see, part of my job as Senior Exec Ed is keeping track of the names of Marvel's multitude of characters (over 3000 names at most recent estimate) in order to prevent needless duplication and confusion. So as keeper of the master list, I get to tell our creative people if a given name is "taken" or not. There's sometimes a debate as to what constitutes "taken." F'rinstance, at the time the first female herald of Galactus was named, the kid called Nova was in retirement so the name was technically available. Wouldn't you know, it the original came back and of course was very interested in his name back. The lesson I learned from this is to never count retired characters as permanently abandoning their claims to their names.

Still, since I only began my name coordination back in '88, I inherited years of name duplication, and since that time, a few of our crafty creative folks have also managed to do end runs around the system in order to replicate names already in use.

So what are some of the most popular names in the Marvel Universe, to judge by the number of different characters who have claimed the same name? Well, I combed the list and found 26 names used by three different characters (such as Ape-Man, Atom-Smasher, Blockbuster, Colossus, Goliath, Leviathan, Ox. Pestilence, Stinger, Warlock, and Whizzer), six names used by four different characters (Box, Executioner, Hate-Monger, Mr. Fear, Phoenix, and Smasher), five names used by five different characters (Black Knight, Destroyer, Red Guardian, Scourge, and Sleeper). Finally, there have been at least six or seven guys who wore the costume of Captain America for at least one whole issue.

Is the Marvel Universe fun or what?

Mark Gruenwald

e were passing through Niffleheim the other day, home of the legendary Frost Giants, where we saw Ymir, the most powerful frost giant of them all. Ymir remarked, "Is it cold here, or is it just me?"

Well, it is colder than the cold steel of the Punisher's AK-47 assault rifle out there, which gives you all the more reason to stay indoors and find new ways to entertain yourself. You could do blueprints of the headquarters of your favorite super-team, like Eliot R. Brown does. Or you might want to take up painting. That's what John Welling-

have meaning!"

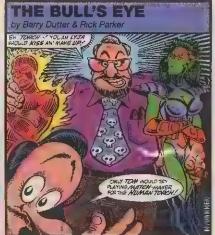
That they do (and the royalty checks aren't exactly lacking in meaning, either!), as you can see for yourself every Saturday morning on Fox. Fans of retro-classic Marvel animation of the sixties may also want to check out Ted Turner's all-new Cartoon Network, where reruns of the beloved Fantastic Four cartoons of the sixties are shown. (That channel also shows reruns of the Thing animated series from the early eighties, so we can all thrill to young Benjy Grimm joining his rings together and shouting, "Thing rings, do your thing!")

One thing that never changes is Hildy Mesnick's assistant editor, "Professor" James Felder, pestering us to mention his off-duty activities on this page. In November of last year, the proud-piping Professor participated in the annual bagpipe festival held here in Greenwich Village. It was sponsored by Dewar's, and it was held over the course of two nights in October at an ultra-hip club called the Knitting Factory. After those two nights, they might want to be knitting themselves up some earplugs!

Nobody covers their ears when Marvel's book designer, Joe Kaufman, is playing! Joe is a member of a band called Shambas, which can rock the house harder than a Thor/Ulik slug-fest. Shambas plays various clubs around New York, including Street Level, Atlantis, and the Bank. (And no, Professor, they're not looking for a bagpiper!)

To end this column on yet another musical note, we'd like to toot the horn of our very own managing art director, Steve Geiger, who is a member of the rock group, Denaro! Denaro's self-titled debut CD is out in stores now, and it will rock you like one of Storm's hurricanes! The band will be doing a lot of touring in the next few months, so keep your ears open. If the band takes off. Steve & Co. will be making a lot of dinero, and winning more awards than Robert

This brings us to the end of another award-winning Bullpen Page. As you can see, our mighty Marveloids tend to be multitalented, just like writer/actor/country-western singer Sylvester Stallone. So to anyone out there who has an interest in pursuing any creative endeavor, like our stainless staffers, we encourage you wholeheartedly. Just don't let it take away time from your comic book reading!



ton, ultra-cool PUNISHER ARMORY colorist, did. John was featured in a write-up recently in American Artist magazine, which bills itself as "the leading magazine for fine artists" (funny - we always thought that was SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN!). Several of John's modern masterpieces were featured in the mag, including a chilling selfportrait. John's paintings combine classic techniques with contemporary themes much like your favorite Marvel Comics, which mix the legendary Stan Lee neo-realism of the sixties, with the post-modern cutting edge of the nineties.

X-MEN editor Bob Harras — whose hobby is attracting media attention received some magazine coverage recently. The magazine was Entertainment Weekly, where Bob was quizzed about the X-Men TV cartoon show, a possible Wolverine movie for '94, and just why the X-Men are so mega-popular As Bob put it, "These stories

- AVENGERS #361: The alternate
- ☐ CONAN #267: Conan's imprisoned n the dark with a deadly changeling!

 DARK ANGEL #10: The Mys-Tech
 Board has a list, with the X-Men and
 Dark Angel at the top of it!

 DOCTOR WHO #196: The Doctor s
- DOOM 2099 #4: The Tiger Wylde
- saga concludes, and it's really wild!

 EXCALIBUR #64: Has Rachel
- Decome Dark Phoenix?

 G.i. JOE #135: Poly-bagged with a photo trading card. It's a G.i. Joe you've never seen before!
- HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK GL JOE AND THE TRANSFOR-MERS: Reprinting the classic battle of the action figures!

 INCREDIBLE HULK #404: In this
- COMPONENT THE STATE OF THE STAT
- verine! She-Hulk! Iron Fist Ghost Rider! And Jerry Methers as the
- ☐ MIDNIGHT SONS UNLIMITED #1:

S VIRTUAL INSTRUMENTS STYPENE BUTADIENE BUTLIPEN BORD

- 64 pages of Morbiue, Ghost Rider, and the Midnight Sons Family
- MORBIUS #8: Morb us has drunken spoiled blood: He should've
- checked the expiration date!

 PUNISHER #77: Micro s kidnapped! Punny must save his little
- SHIELD #46: An X-Force tie-in?
 What is this book, close to cancel ation, or what? ☐ SILVER SURFER/WARLOCK:
- RESURRECTION #2 of 4: This one is so cosmic, you'll be seeing stars!

 SPIDER-MAN #33: Is Spidey a

- murderer? Ask the Punisher! (Like
- SUPER SOLDIERS #1: Mortally wounded soldiers come back—a the USAgent isn't happy about it! WATCH #15: Let sleeping Warlocks
- WHAT IF #48: The answer to the most-asked question of all: What if
- Daredevil had saved Nuke? X-FACTOR #89: The truth about Rahne comes pouring down!
- X-MEN #19: ntroducing an all-new villain, Soul Skinner! (No relation to B.F. Skinner, the famed anthropologist!)

















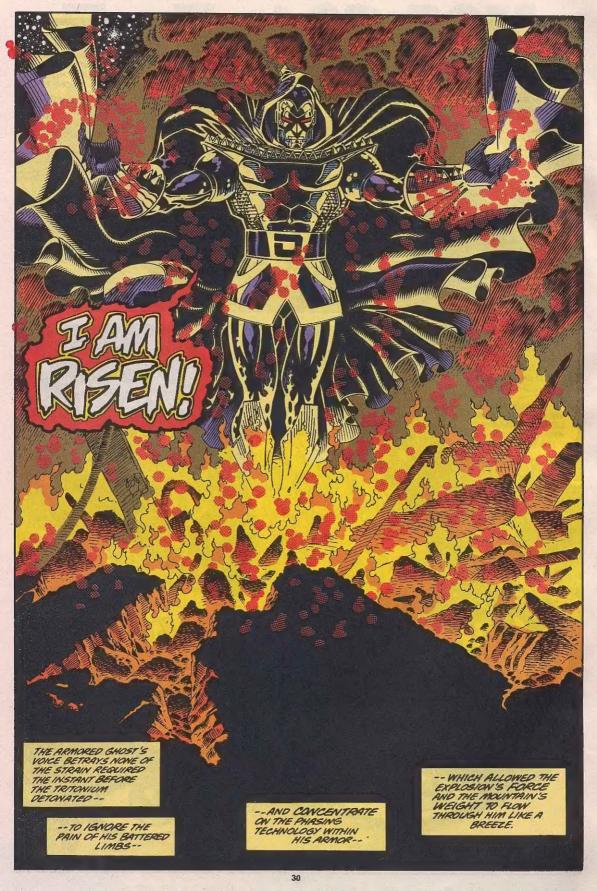














"Fire answers fire, and through their paly flames each battle sees the other's umbered face."

- Shakespeare, Henry V